



**COL. KATHIE CLOSE**  
377th Air Base Wing commander

### Security forces focus on traffic problems

The parking lot in the north east corner of Carlisle and Aberdeen Streets is used daily as a shortcut by motorists who wish to avoid the traffic light at the intersection.

South bound motorists on Carlisle cut through the parking lot to avoid making a left hand turn at the light; similarly west bound motorists on Aberdeen cut across to

## FORUM

**kirtlandcc.forum@kirtland.af.mil, 846-4240**

north bound Carlisle. The problem is worse in the early morning and late afternoon traffic rush.

These motorists tend to speed through the parking lot, often failing to come to a complete stop to reenter the street. And, sometimes, they use the north lane in the parking lot against the traffic flow. I recommend that Law Enforcement issue tickets to these offenders.

Part of our problem is that the bad "city driving" habits our people use when driving in Albuquerque don't stop when they get to our gates. Our security forces are being more strict with traffic violations and you can expect them to have a more visible presence—including in the parking lot you mentioned.

Thanks for bringing this to my attention.

(See Page 19 for more on this topic.)

### Personnel NCO provides 'outstanding' service

I brought my wife to the base for a new identification card and she has a walking handicap and the consideration given by Senior Airman Clifton W. Henderson and his section chief (Master Sgt. Raymond Nevins) at the Military Personnel Flight was outstanding and we both appreciated their help.

### Communications team member an 'asset'

My thanks to Randy Dale of the Kirtland C-4 team for the outstanding service he provided me in rebuilding my office computer last week.

My computer was in need of repair and he made the time in and around his other projects to get me up and running again. He is extremely friendly and a pleasure to be around. He is an asset to the Kirtland C-4 team.

### Contacting Forum

We want your suggestions and comments concerning Kirtland AFB. Give base agencies or the chain of command the chance to resolve your concern before calling Forum. Callers' names won't be printed.

#### Write:

377th ABW/CC Forum  
2000 Wyoming SE  
Kirtland AFB NM 87117.

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# Pray for me

**BY CHAP., MAJ., MARK S. HOBBS**

Kirtland AFB Chapel

He'd come close to death before. Now he was 82 years old and no one had seen him since lunchtime.

He always walked across the garden arriving at our house just as we sat down for supper. He didn't come across the garden on this particular afternoon. As soon as our meals were finished, my mom sent me in search of my grandfather. She wanted me to see if he was all right.

Ever since I could remember, my grandfather talked about his impending death. As I ran down the narrow dirt path that led across our garden, I felt my heart pounding inside my chest. I wondered if this was to be "the time." I was not ready for my only grandparent to die.

Granddaddy never locked his doors. I knew I would have no trouble getting inside his old wooden framed house. My pace slowed quickly. I was afraid. I was afraid of what I might find.

I went around to the side of the house and peeped inside the windows. I saw nothing. No lights were on inside. Darkness shrouded the house as the sun had already slipped below the western horizon. Quietly, I opened the screen door of the back porch. I waited and made no noise.



Photo by Jennifer E. West

There were no cars in the drive. No one was there. I stepped further into the porch and listened carefully. "Be with my daughter, her husband, and the three boys," he said. As I listened a little more, I realized my grandfather was praying—and he was praying for my family and me. I quietly slipped out the door and raced across the garden to my house.

My mother was waiting to hear my report. "Granddaddy's just fine," I gasped as I ran out of breath.

"What did he have to say?" my mom asked.

"Nothing special," I replied.

But, as the years have gone by since that day when I was a 10-year-old boy, I know my grandfather did in fact say something special. He prayed for my family and me. He was trusting God to care for us.

As we journey in a year filled with uncertainties and rumors of war, we would each do well to remember the One who cares for us. We need not fear the future with its uncertainties. May each of us in the Kirtland AFB community remember

that we are not alone in asking God's blessings upon our families, this community and our world.

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# Maj. Gen. 'Ken' Peck, Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center commander Getting new weapons to the warfighters

Since arriving at Kirtland AFB three years ago, Maj. Gen. William A. "Ken" Peck, Jr., Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center commander, has been focused on getting new weapon systems to the warfighters as soon as possible.

"When I got here I felt like some members of the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center had a clipboard inspector mentality," said Peck. I saw most of AFOTEC as a bunch of testers, while I was an operator. Prior to arriving, I had viewed what little I knew of the AFOTEC testing operation as a delivery-delaying obstacle.

"My goal was to streamline the testing process in ways that allowed operational changes to be made by contractors and developers, yet get the product delivered faster. In essence, we wanted to integrate changes throughout testing, without compromising the accuracy and validity of results. To do that, we had to involve operational testers earlier in the process but that ultimately let us deliver weapon systems more quickly to the field and the warfighters.

"The F/A-22 developmental test program has been ongoing for the last three years, and is AFOTEC's biggest and most important program today," said the general. The Raptor is scheduled as a replacement for the F-15 in 2005, enabling United States to maintain air dominance over any battlefield. "We are just now starting to train



## Change of command

Maj. Gen. William A. "Ken" Peck Jr., relinquishes command of the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center to Brig. Gen. (Maj. Gen. select) Felix Dupré in a Change of Command Ceremony, Feb. 26, 2 p.m., in the 58th Special Operations Wing Hangar 1000.

Gen. Robert H. Foglesong, Air Force vice chief of staff officiates.

Air Force Gateway Band provides music.

Dupré is the U.S. Defense Attache to France. There will be a reception for the new commander in the hangar following the ceremony.

Call Maj. Keith Higginbotham, 853-0640.

the past, a pilot could learn to fly a relatively simple aircraft, and drop a bomb on a fixed target while flying at a fixed air speed. Now, the aircraft's computers handle more complex calculations at great speed. We have to integrate a number of different systems to include onboard radar, onboard early warning or air-to-ground threat systems, etc., into one program. It's hard to design and it's hard to test."

"It's not one pilot, alone, armed and afraid out there anymore; it's a whole network of systems and people with relevant information, being integrated into one system. When we test a new piece of equipment, we have to look at the total holistic environment in which it operates.

"In the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, we realize the threat is much closer," Peck said. "We've responded to some urgent requests. Just in the 10 years between Desert Storm and Afghanistan, airpower has become more lethal. There is a

## Maj. Gen. 'Ken' Peck

★ A command pilot with combat experience in the F-111 and F-15E.

★ Flew fighter, tanker, bomber, helicopter aircraft.

★ Served in senior staff positions in the United States and overseas before being assigned as AFOTEC commander in 2000.

★ In the last decade he has held senior staff positions with Allied Air Forces Central Europe, Ramstein AB, Germany; 5th Allied Tactical Air Force, NATO Southern Region, Vicenza, Italy; U.S. Air Forces in Europe, Ramstein AB; commander of the 366th Wing, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho; Air Combat Command at Langley AFB, Va.; and 7th Air Force, Osan AB, Korea.

### Decorations received, since his enlistment in 1972:

- ★ Defense Superior Service Medal,
- ★ Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster,
- ★ Distinguished Flying Cross and
- ★ Bronze Star Medal.



Photos by Damian Bohannon



Operational Test pilots for this aircraft, and the operational test will begin later this year."

Other notable testing programs under Peck's command have been the Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile (JASSM), which is a very capable cruise missile with improved range and accuracy, the AIM-9X

heat-seeking air-to-air missile, an expanded B-1 program that will provide the bomber greater computer capability and weapon accuracy, and improvements to Global Positioning System weapons.

"There are also a whole lot of command and control programs that may not be as sexy as bombs and aircraft, but they are absolutely critical from the standpoint of controlling our ability to plan and execute a war," Peck said. "The Air Operations Center has had many, many big improvements over the last three years, and

we've tested almost all of those system improvements. That gives us the ability to get tasking orders out to units so they can control airpower in the theater while the aircraft are airborne.

"One of our major responsibilities is telling the warfighters how capable new equipment is, and what

problems still exist. We also tell them what doesn't work, and we let the acquisition people know what still needs to be fixed.

"The idea of advance concept technology demonstrations is to take capabilities that are 'off the shelf'—and by putting two or three things together you get something with military utility, quickly. You're not developing something from scratch," said Peck. "We started ACTDs about five years ago and we've conducted the evaluations on two thirds of all the ACTDs for DOD.

"One of the challenges with ACTDs is that you don't have a normal procurement process. You don't have spare parts. You don't have tech orders. You don't have training manuals. One of the challenges with this approach is that it takes numbers of contractors and a long time to get the pipeline supporting those systems going.

"Increasingly complex technological advances cause real challenges when developing weapons for the warfighter," added Peck. In

push for smarter weapons, and improved GPS guided weapons, precision guided weapons, and laser guided weapons.

"The Joint Strike Fighter is the next big test down the road," said Peck. We will have to figure out how to remain on the leading edge of computer technology and fold its capability into a very complex aircraft. The greatest challenge will not be fielding an aircraft that is great by itself, but synchronizing all of its systems. We must control the whole battle space environment. That will be AFOTEC's greatest challenge in the future."

"My impression of AFOTEC is quite different as I depart. This organization is located all over the country and it is dedicated to making sure the initial product the warfighter receives is as good as it can be. I am very proud to end my 32+ years of military service as a part of such a great team of civilian and military professionals. AFOTEC is truly making a difference for every operator on the field."